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MICROCIDE, A NEW SOVIET ANTIBIOTIC

G.N. Vishnevskaya

Microcide (Mikrotsid), a new antibiotic of microbial origin, was isolated at the Institute of Microbiology /Kiev/, Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR, by scientific associates N.P. Pidoplichko and V.I. Bilay /M.F. Gul and E.T. Soreni were also mentioned in connection with the above two persons in a booklet by G.F. Gauze, Antibiotiki i Ikh Lechebenoye Primeneniye (Antibiotics and Their Therapeutic Application), Moscow, 1952./ As compared with other microorganisms, staphylococci and streptococci, which produce various suppurative processes, proved to be the most sensitive to the action of microcide. Upon contact with microcide, these bacteria change their morphological properties: they swell and become misshapen.

The microcide preparation forms a transparent, almost colorless liquid with a slightly yellow tinge. It is easily soluble in water and lacks any disagreeable odor. It exerts no irritating effect on tissues, is resistant to low temperatures, and stands heating up to 40°. Microcide is stored at plus 4-6°: it retains its activity for several months if kept at that temperature. If a vial containing microcide is opened, the period during which it can be stored is reduced to 5-7 days, whereupon the preparation becomes turbid, loses its activity, and becomes unfit for further use. Investigation has shown that microcide is absolutely harmless to the organism when applied locally.

Microcide has passed clinical tests at various medical institutions of the Ukrainian SSR as well as at the Moscow Institute of Surgery imeni A. V. Vishnevskiy and received the approval of medical men and scientists. It is at present admitted for external use. Subcutaneous or intramuscular administration of microcide is not permissible.

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The technique of applying microcide is simple. In view of the fact that microcide is a liquid, it reaches every interstice of the wound surface after it has been applied. Furthermore, it can be sprayed by means of an atomizer. The easy solubility of microcide in water and some organic solvents permits its application in the form of solutions of any concentration as well as its combination with various softening agents such as fish liver oil.

Scientific associate Ya. A. Fialkov developed methods of preparing microcide ointments with a fish liver oil, vaseline, or lanolin base. These ointments are convenient for storage and transportation.

According to surgeon V. P. Dzbanovskiy, treatment with microcide of freshly infected wounds formed as a result of injuries leads to rapid disappearance of pus, reduction of the inflammation and edema, cessation of pain, and rapid healing of the wound.

In view of the facts that microcide is a preparation for local use and that primarily it suppresses staphylococci and streptococci, this antibiotic is used principally for the treatment of local suppurative infections. Penicillin and gramicidin are also used for the same purpose in the USSR. A decision as to whether microcide is preferable to penicillin or gramicidin for this particular application cannot be made at this time, because a detailed comparative investigation of the therapeutic and bactericidal effects produced by these antibiotics has not yet been carried out.

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